

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, September 3. 1709.

AND now for the *Gotick* Heroe—
 I was always satisfy'd, the News
 of his being beaten was true, tho'
 Abundance of People were mighty fond
 of having it be otherwise— However,
 Gentlemen, I was even with you ; for not-
 withstanding I was satisfy'd of the Truth
 of it, yet all I have said of him would hold
 Water, whether he was conquer'd, or was
 victorious.

I shall not run upon his Character, now
 he is beaten ; 'tis below an *English* Man,
 and below a Gentleman, to insult any Man
 that's down, to conquer a Man, and re-
 duce him to Misery, consists with a Man of
 Honour ; but to insult him when reduc'd,
 is below a Man as a rational, much more

as a generous Creature— For this
 Reason, if there ever was any such thing
 as a *Calves-Head* Club, which I profess not
 to know ; I abhor not the Practice only,
 but the Temper that can stoop to a Thing so
 base ; and believe it to be as much below a
 generous Spirit, as hanging *Oliver Cromwel*
 when he was dead.

It behoves a Man to show himself brave
 in fighting his Enemy, and generous to
 him when he has conquer'd him ; *but this*
by the by— I shall say nothing of the
Swede now he is beaten, but what I durst
 say of him when he was victorious—
 That he was a brave Prince, I readily ac-
 knowledge ; that he wanted Temper, Mer-
 cy, and Moderation in his Prosperity, I be-
 lieve,

lieve, his greatest Admirers will now acknowledge.

Before I come to speak of the present Accident, I shall give an Abridgment of the War he was embark'd in, with the Causes and Consequences of it.

The King came to the Crown a young, brave, and aspiring Heroe, he had seen no Wars to give him any Experience, and his early Successes were surprizing; in the Beginning of his Reign; a most powerful League appear'd against him, viz, the Czar of *Muscovy*, the King of *Denmark*, and the King of *Poland*—— The First invaded *Livonia*, and besieg'd *Narva*; the Second invaded *Courland*, and attack'd *Riga*; the Third was preparing to invade *Holstein*, and to assist the two other by Sea.

The *English* and *Dutch* encourag'd the young King to begin with the last, and the Invasion of the Duke of *Holstein* having diverted the *Danish* Army, where the *Lunenburgh* Troops appear'd to protect it; the King of *Sweden*, under the Protection of the Confederate Fleet, landed in the Isle of *Holland*, and prepar'd to attack *Copenhagen*. This brought the *Dane* to Terms, and so the War ended on that side.

From hence the *Swede* advances for the Relief of *Riga*; by plain Force relieves the Town, and makes the *Poles* quit the Siege with Disgrace, and abandon the *Dunamander-Schans*, which they had surpriz'd in the Beginning of the Action; glad to shun the Fury of the *Swedes*, who were prepar'd for Action, and resolv'd to fight them.

Two of his Adversaries being thus baulk'd, he prepares to attack the Third, and marching directly against the *Muscovite*, he gain'd a Victory, the most surprizing of any these latter Ages have known, excepting one now to be related on himself; for with but 22000 Men, he attack'd the *Muscovites* 115000 strong, in their Intrenchments, beat them, kill'd 20000 Men on the Spot, made all the rest lay down their Arms, or fly, and beat the Czar of *Muscovy* clear out of the Country.

These Wonders perform'd, he now begins to act offensively, and to handle the most dangerous Enemy; first he enters *Poland*;

here he drove King *Augustus* from *Poit* to *Pillar*, beat him in a great Battle near *Cracow*, where nevertheless the Duke of *Holstein* was kill'd, took from him all the great Cities on the *Duna*, as *Elbing*, *Thorn*, *Marienburg*, and at last *Daniswick*—— And being possess'd of the greatest Part of *Poland*, he pretends to dethrone K. *Augustus*, and brings the *Poles* to a new Election, if it may be call'd an Election, where he stood by with 12000 Men to direct or dictate what they should do.

King *Augustus* struggled with his evil Fortune in a Manner like himself, gallant; he fought the *Swedes* upon all Occasions, tho' bought and sold by the treacherous *Poles*; but at last having an Army under General *Schellenberg*, which he had rais'd for the Defence of *Saxony*, defeated on the Frontiers of *Lusatia*, and his Country being thereby left naked; the King of *Sweden* knowing there was no way to touch King *Augustus* in a more sensible Part, and to reduce him effectually, but by invading his Hereditary Dominions, he breaks into *Saxony* with his whole Army, siezes *Lipsick*, *Dresden*, and all the Country except *Torgau*, and liv'd at Discretion on his *Saxon* Subjects.

This effectually reduc'd King *Augustus*, and to relieve his own Subjects from this most imminent Destruction, he sends *Charles Blanch* to the King of *Sweden* to make Peace on his own Terms, only quitting the Electorate of *Saxony*—— This Peace contain'd the abandoning *Poland*, acknowledging *Stanislaus*, delivering up General *Paskul*, and several very severe Articles, in which some said, the *Swede* us'd K. *Augustus* very hardly, which however he was forc'd to comply with, notwithstanding he had just then given the *Swedes* under General *Reinscheld*, a great Overthrow near *Pasen*, call'd the Battle of The Colours, Standards, and Prisoners taken in which Battle King *Augustus* was oblig'd to restore, without so much as exchanging his own Subjects, who had been taken by the *Swedes*—— And all this to get the *Swedes* out of *Saxony*, who nevertheless stay'd there so long, till they cost the *Saxons* 27 Tun of Gold in Contributions, and almost ruin'd the Country.

This

This Part of the War being thus over, the Swede turn'd his whole Force against the Muscovite—who having new modell'd his Troops, regimented, cloth'd, and disciplin'd his Men after the German Manner, began to appear another Kind of Enemy than they us'd to be; he had entertain'd 10 or 11 German and Scots Generals, 67 Colonels, and above 3500 Officers of the Scots, Germans, French, or Poles, and furnish'd himself with about 120000 Foot, 25000 Dragoons, and 10000 Horse, all form'd, regular, and well appointed Troops.

However, the Muscovite sensible of the Bravery and Experience of the Swedes, and the desperate Courage of their King, made all possible Overtures for Peace, offer'd to restore all the Places he had taken, and to pay immense Sums for Satisfaction; for it is to be noted, that the Muscovite had taken *Narva*, *Schans-ter-ny*, and several other Places in *Livonia*, and had built a new Port in the *Baltick*, which he call'd after his own Name, *Petersburgh*, where he began to build Ships, lay up Stores, and form a Navy after the Model of *Europe*, to contend the Dominion of the Sea in the *Baltick*.

But the young Heroe, flush'd with Victory, and too confident of Success, reject'd all Conditions—insulted the Czar with all possible Indignity and Reproach, executed General *Parky* in a most cruel Manner on the Wheel, declares, he will give no Quarter to the Muscovites, and that he will never lay down his Arms, till he has dethron'd the Czar; treating him on all Occasions as a Person not to be counted a Sovereign, or fit to govern any Part of the World, and contemning all his Pretensions to Power or Fighting, resolves to invade him, and push into *Muscovy*, even to his Capital.

With these vast Designs in View, he marches with a mighty Army thro' *Lithuania* to the Banks of the *Beristhenes*, passes that great River, enters *Muscovy*, and pushes into *Urania*. On all Occasions he appear'd as victorious, the *Zaporavian* Cossacks revolt to him, he winters on the Frontiers of *Muscovy*, and was now resolv'd

to push into the Heart of *Muscovy*, in order to dethrone the Czar, as has been said.

The Czar, guided by regular Councils, back'd by experienc'd Generals and brave Officers, thus coming to any decisive Action with him, but retreats on every Occasion, destroying and ruining the Country before him, and continually harrassing him with Parties and great Skirmishes, lying always near him with the Main of his Army, but entrench'd, fortify'd, and advantageously posted——On many Occasions the Swedes worsted his Men, but still they lost some of their own, which they could not recruit; whereas on his side his Loss was readily made up.

In all these Occasions, they found, the Muscovites appear'd another Kind of Men, than they were ever known to be before; and his most experienc'd Officers perswaded him to content himself with having thus far insulted the Czar, and entreated him to hearken to an honourable Peace, which it seems the Czar frequently offer'd; but he continu'd inflexible, and resolv'd to sit down with nothing less than dethroning the Czar. Till at last laying Siege to *Puliona*, a Town in *Urania*, and the Czar making Shew of relieving it, he marches to attack the Czar in his entrench'd Camp, and there he has taken a *Tartar*, is repuls'd, in his Turn attack'd, and at last entirely overthrown, small Accounts confirm.

I shall in my next enter a little into some of the Mistakes, our People here have entertain'd of this Prince and his Actions, in Defence of the general Proceedings of the Confederacy, with Respect to him; and to undeceive some Gentlemen, who would have this Man be the great Instrument, that GOD had call'd out to restore his Church, and pull down his Enemies; in which I doubt not, they will as plainly see themselves mistaken now, as I, with more Freedom than they approv'd of, told them they were before.